

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 L-03 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7063

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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UNCLAS RANGOON 1804

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: BURMESE PRESS COMMENTS ON CAPTURE OF LO HSING-HAN

1. CAPTURE OF LO HSING-HAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS DOMINATED EDITORIAL COMMENT IN WEEKEND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY EDITORIAL AUGUST 4 ENTITLED "GOOD WILL AND PEACE": "THE TWO APPREHENDED REBELS (LO AND SAI DU) WILL, IN DUE COURSE, FACE LEGAL PROCESSES FOR ANY CRIMES THEY MAY HAVE COMMITTED AGAINST THE STATE AND AGAINST HUMANITY. THEIR HANDING-OVER TO THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT BY THE THAI AUTHORITIES WHICH HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE HAS BEEN A GESTURE OF GOODWILL ON THE PART OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT, AND NOT AS A RESULT OF ANY EXTRADITION AGREEMENT, SINCE NO SUCH AGREEMENT EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. FOR THIS REASON THE THAI GOODWILL GESTURE IS ALL THE MORE APPRECIATED...

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IN THE PAST, BURMESE TROOPS WERE OFTEN FRUSTRATED IN THEIR

ATTEMPTS TO ROOT OUT INSURGENCY BECAUSE, IN THE FACE OF SUCCESSFUL MILITARY OPERATIONS, THE MULTI-COLOURED INSURGENTS CROSSED THE BORDER...

NOW THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT HAS COME TO ACTIVELY CO-OPERATE WITH THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT ALONG THE BORDER, THE CHANCES OF WIPING OUT THE INSURGENTS AND REMOVING THE SOURCES OF IRRITATION AND HEAD-ACHE HAVE VASTLY IMPROVED. PEACE AND SECURITY ALONG THE BORDER IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE LOCAL INHABITANTS AS WELL AS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE COUNTRIES...

MORE GOODWILL AND CO-OPERATION IS EXPECTED FROM THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES, JUST AS BURMA IS ALWAYS READY TO EXTEND HER GOODWILL AND CO-OPERATION TO THEM."

3. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "LO HSING-HAN VERSUS THE STATE" THE GUARDIAN COMMENTED AUGUST 4 AS FOLLOWS: "HIS CAPTURE BY THE THAI BORDER PATROL POLICE AND NARCOTICS AGENTS WHO WERE ALERTED BY DEFENCE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE HERE THROUGH THE THAI EMBASSY OF OPERATION AUNG THANLWIN AND THE POSSIBLE FLIGHT OF THE BANDITS ACROSS THE BORDER ITSELF MUST GO DOWN AS THE RESULT OF CO-OPERATION BASED ON GOODWILL.

IN THE LIGHT OF THE CRIMES COMMITTED BY LO AND HIS GANG AGAINST THE STATE, OUR NEIGHBOUR HAS ACTED WISELY IN TURNING HIM OVER, WHICH ALSO MUST GO DOWN AS A COMMENDABLE GESTURE IN THE ANNALS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE CRACKDOWN ON CRIMES.

...CRIMES PERPETRATED AGAINST THE STATE BY HIM AND HIS INSTANCE MUST BE CAREFULLY WEIGHED AS THE LAW TAKES ITS COURSE...

RELENTLESS AND CONCERTED EFFORTS, HOWEVER, MUST BE MADE WITH THE HELP OF THOSE INTERESTED IN ELIMINATING LAWLESSNESS SO THAT CRIMES WHICH FIND ORIGIN IN THE SO-CALLED GOLDEN TRIANGLE CAN BE KEPT AT A MINIMUM. THE FALL OF LO HSING-HAN SHOULD HERALD A NEW PHASE FOR CLAMPDOWNS AGAINST DRUG-TRAFFICKING AND BANDITRY."

4. COLUMN IN GUARDIAN SAME DATE BY "MBK" (POSSIBLY EDITOR OF THE PAPER) PRAISED "GOOD-NEIGHBORLY ACT OF THAI GOVERNMENT" AND UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCLUDED: "LO IS TOO HOT A POTATO FOR THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE. IT IS FITTING THAT HE HAS BEEN HANDED OVER TO US. THERE IS A CATALOGUE OF CRIMES TO HIS CREDIT. NECESSARY INVESTIGATIONS WILL BE MADE, AND LATER, HE WILL BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. MEANWHILE, WE WILL WAIT AND SEE WHAT PUNISHMENT HE GETS TO SUIT THE CRIMES HE HAD COMMITTED AGAINST THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE."

5. GUARDIAN ON AUGUST 5 CARRIED EDITORIAL ON "DRUG ABUSE CONTROL",

FULL TEXT OF WHICH REPORTED IN USIS RANGOON 1801. IT BEGAN, "DRUG ABUSE CONTROL IS AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN THAT DESERVES ALL THE CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION WHICH ALL GOVERNMENTS AND WORLD BODIES CAN MUSTER, AND CONCLUDED, "MEANWHILE, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS, POOLING RESOURCES AND KNOW-HOW, MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY CONTINUE AS WE ATTEMPT CURBS AT HOME."
MARTIN

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